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the I. X. L. Railroad wants to have any dealings with me they will have to cut both of you out. You have my promise in this particular matter, and I have always prided myself that my word was as good as my bond. I have been with you principally for the reason that I didn't believe this two cent bill was doing justice to the roads at this time. There is one thing that I shall absolutely demand of you. Mr. White, that is that you furnish me with a receipt of the amount of the money this boy took, which I shall pay you myself, and with a statement from your road that his accounts are in good shape. This I am going to take to Jim Treadway. I don't believe that it will change his agreement to vote against the bill, but I am going to give him the opportunity."

The General Manager answered Mr. Wells. "I am more than glad to meet a man of your caliber. You can rest assured that under no circumstances will I countenance such actions as this. You will understand Mr. Gordon, that as long as I am manager of this road that at the first inkling that I get of any such contemptible work as this going on in the future that we will not wait for your resignation. You can go over to Jim Treadway's room tonight and tell him what I have said."

George Wells had aptly described Jim Treadway's condition. He was almost broken-hearted over his son's conduct and the shame that had been brought upon him. He did not blame the boy so much, for in his mind he had pictured the whole devilish scheme and knew how easily a young fellow just entering manhood, even of the best principles can be influenced by the wiles of such men as Meyers and his kind. His mind was fully made up, he would vote as he had agreed to do and immediately resign from the Legislature. His son exhausted from the severe ordeal through which he had just been passing, had gone to bed, and Jim Treadway was sitting alone bowed in grief when someone knocked at the door. He went to the door and opening it saw Harry Wilson, a fellow member of the Legislature.

"Hello, Jim," said Wilson. "I have just had something told me in absolute confidence. I want to talk to you about it."

"All right, Harry," said Jim. "My boy is in here asleep, so we will walk up to the end of the hall."

"Wilson noticed Treadway's condition and said, 'Good God man, what's the matter with you, you look as though you were seriously ill?'"

"I am," said Jim. "Ill in mind and body." And as they reached the end of the hall he said: "What is it you want to tell me?"

"I have just heard, Jim, that you were to vote against the railroad bill."

"It is true, Harry, but I can't see their object in telling it to anybody

now. They have got me and that is the reason you found me looking and feeling as I do." And Jim proceeded to tell Harry the history of the affair.

"Fine lot of crooks we Legislators have to deal with," said Wilson when he had finished. "I have had a confession to make to you for sometime, Jim. You and I have been the closest of friends, and have almost always been together when it came to voting. They got me about three weeks ago. Matters have been going against me financially of late, and I have hardly known which way to turn, after fighting the thing off for several days, I sold out to them for three thousand dollars, one thousand in cash and the other thousand after the vote was delivered. After I had agreed and accepted the money it worried me so that I would not use it as badly as I needed it, and I practically have determined to return it to them. You can bet that after what you told me that they will get it all back."

"Send it back by all means, Harry. I will be more than glad to help you financially, for I can realize what that sort of thing means now. I must say good night to you, old fellow, as I am all in." And they walked back down the hall.

While they were saying good night, George Wells walked up to them and greeting them said: "I want to talk to you just a minute, Jim."

"All right, George, come in."

Wells then told Jim of White's offer.

"That's mighty good of him," said Jim. "But I propose to stick to my word, and you can depend upon it that they will be sorry when I get through for what I have done."

"But, Jim, I want to run you for Governor next fall, and I want this thing kept quiet," replied Wells.

"Not for mine, George, I am absolutely through with state politics. I will try to do some good at home and give my boy a little more of my attention in the future."

No measure before the Legislature that winter had created such intense, State-wide interest, as the two-cent bill. In the house the bill had been passed by the narrow margin of one vote. Harry Wilson, advised by Jim Treadway, had returned the money paid him by the railroad company, and had voted for the bill. This had been an unexpected blow to the railroad people, who had strained every nerve to defeat the measure, and, upon actual count, had figured upon Harry Wilson's vote. The interview between him and Gordon had been full of excitement. He had waited until the night before the day upon which the final vote was taken before he had his interview with Gordon. When he entered Gordon's sanctum, by appointment, he said to him: "Mr. Gordon, I

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